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Friday
September 5, 1952

Staff meeting at 9:30. John asked me to take the chair for our delegation at the Bank annual report meeting this morning. Gene Black made an excellent report. When its discussion by the Governors was opened, the Czechoslovak representative, who finally arrived yesterday, requested that the Republic of China delegation be unseated. The Indians supported, the Chinese opposed him. I then submitted a motion to forget the whole thing, which was carried, the only dissenting votes being those of Czechoslovakia and India.

Various Governors commented on the report. The Czech returned to the attack, saying the Bank was the tool of United States imperialism. The Cuban, Machado, sailed into him and retorted that Cuba was nobody's satellite. I made a somewhat impolite reference to the Czech views, and then went on to praise Black and his report. The proceedings lasted until about 2:00, when I went off with some of our boys for lunch at the Ambassadeurs.

This evening, John took me to a party at the house of an old friend of his, Juan Monasterio, where we met a lot of Mexican and American bankers and businessmen. E. and I had a really marvellous dinner at the Restaurant Jena. Aside from its superb food, it is attractively decorated in a Directoire-Premier Empire mixture. We had succulent Morro crabs, spaghetti, lamb kidneys cooked in sherry, and a flask of Chianti.

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